

December 2022

The Trumpet

“The trumpet shall sound...and we shall be changed”
(I Corinthians 15:52)



Volume 16 Issue 12

Pastor's Pen

When Pope Julius I authorized December 25 to be celebrated as the birthday of Jesus in A.D. 353, who would have ever thought that it would become what it is today. When Professor Charles Follen lit candles on the first Christmas tree in America, in 1832, who would have ever thought that the decorations would become as elaborate and expensive as they are today?

We do not know the actual calendar date of the very first Christmas. But the Bible tells us that on that day, sometime during the nighttime, *“there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”* **Luke 2:8-11**

It has been a long time since 1832, longer still from 353, and longer still from that dark night brightened by a special star in which Jesus the king was born. Yet, as we approach December 25 again, it gives us yet another opportunity to pause, and in the midst of all the excitement and elaborate decorations and expensive commercialization which surround Christmas today, to consider again the event of Christmas and the person whose birth we celebrate.

The Bible further informs us, *“this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe*

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wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came quickly, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And

when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.” **Luke 2:12-17**

Good News...A Savior is born, which is Christ the Lord

Merry Christmas to All,

Pastor Jim

Portions of the article taken from:

Brian L. Harbour, James W. Cox, *The Minister's Manual*: 1994, San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1993, p. 254.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIPETS

**A Testimony From:
Missionary Alma Fielder**

The saints of yesterday referred to Sunday school as the “hot bed” of the church. I didn’t understand that terminology until adulthood. A hot bed is the place where you place tender baby plants. They begin their growth cycles in a controlled environment, not too hot and not too cold. The soil is conducive to good growth. They receive the right amount of water and sunlight. The plants will grow; be healthy, and productive. This is Sunday School.

How can you effectively live a Christian life if you don’t know or understand what to do? From a child Sunday school was mandatory for us. My mother taught the lesson to us on Saturday and we were expected to have the memory verse memorized and are prepared to interact in Sunday school. This has been a tremendous blessing for my life. It was my foundation in the Word of God. When you face life’s struggles and you don’t know what to do the knowledge of God’s Word obtained in Sunday school will see you through. This is the place to learn how (continued on page 6)

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a ministry formed by Franklin Graham that takes Christmas gifts and the Gospel to underprivileged children all over the world. We are collecting items to fill shoeboxes in November. Each month we will highlight a different item to bring in. But, please remember we will take all types of donations at any time!

For December please pray for the boxes that have been sent, especially that the Lord will use them to bring children to faith in Christ.



PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

APOLOGETICS - FROM BOB NEUBAUER

Christmas 2022

In a time where our nation has lost its way, where godly values are not only rejected but called evil, we come to the season of hope. Jesus was born into a world of darkness where paganism reigned. There is an extant letter from a Roman officer to his wife responding to the news that she is going to have a baby. He said that if it's a boy that is good but if it's a girl put it out for the wild animals to eat. We have modern technology that makes us more efficient at killing our children. There was no apparent hope in the first century when Jesus was born in that manger in Bethlehem. But as the prophecy in Numbers 24:17 says, *A star shall come forth from Jacob, a scepter shall rise from Israel.*

And in fulfillment of the prophecy Jesus was born to Mary. He was truly human, a baby who cried as all human babies do. It is heresy straight out of Gnosticism when the Christmas hymn says, "no crying He makes." He had to be fully human because only a man could be offered for our sins. Heb 10:4 *For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.* But Jesus was also fully God, the second person of the one Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That human nature died on the cross of Calvary but the divine nature did not. About 33 years after the birth we celebrate each year our sin would be imputed to Jesus Christ. He is the hope that was birthed in that manger and is the same hope we have today. The United States is just as pagan as first century society, equally sinful, equally lost. God's people were looking forward to the coming of the Messiah, we look back to His birth. As the angel proclaimed, *for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord* (Luke 2:11).

We rejoice in our Savior's birth and well we should. We have become so used to hearing about Jesus being born in Bethlehem that we sometimes fail to marvel at what happened. That God should enter into His own creation is a great wonder. That the second person of the trinity should humble Himself as He did is beyond extraordinary. Rightly it has been said that love was the reason the Father sent the Son, that the Son voluntarily came and that the Spirit effected the creation of that human nature in the young maiden Mary. It was love beyond anything we of which we are capable. It was love for those who hated Him, for those who were His sworn enemies. How then should we celebrate His birth? What customs and traditions may be part of what we do at Christmas? And what things should we not do and take part in, things which are ungodly and should not be a part of the lives of believers?

This year Christmas falls on a Sunday. Your family celebration can wait while you

honor your Lord and Savior by attending church. We must do all we can to combat the secularization of society. Santa Claus is a pseudo Christ. Attributes that belong only to God are simulated in this mythical character. Omniscience, God's all knowing, becomes "He knows when you are sleeping, he knows when you're awake." Omnipresence, God is everywhere, is simulated with Santa being all over the world in one night. And unlike the one true God you have no need of grace with Santa, all you have to do is behave and you will be rewarded. Even the failure to do so only gets you coal in your stocking. In fact however, until we come to faith in the Lord Jesus we are bound for eternity in Gehenna, the lake of fire. Notice that none of the Christmas movies are about the birth of Christ, they are all wrapped up in our behavior and romance. You may have observed that even the Christmas movies avoid as much as possible mentioning the word 'Christmas.' It's the holiday season not the Christmas season. We now have holiday parades instead of Christmas parades, the center of which is the appearance of Santa Claus.

Instead of joining in with the fallen world we should in preparation for the celebration of our Savior's birth read the scriptures in Luke and Matthew. This will help focus your attention where it should be. If you do not have a Bible ask a deacon or someone else in the church. They or one of the Gideons will be happy to get you one. Which translation should you use? Well, as one man said, "Use the one you use a lot." We are so blessed to have many fine translations. It is helpful to check multiple translations because it is not easy to fully incorporate everything in the original languages into English.

Does the failure of our culture to place the birth of Jesus as the reason for this season mean we should not celebrate the birth of Jesus? Not at all, but our attention needs to be on Jesus Christ. What traditions may we keep and which should we not. One that is perfectly okay is Christmas trees. They were first introduced in the seventh century in Germany and the triangular shape of the tree was meant to symbolize the Trinity. Talking about the triune nature of God and the coming of the second person of the trinity in the person of our Lord is entirely appropriate. Of course we need to know the information about the trees so we can communicate it to our children. We can use the giving of gifts to talk to them about the greatest gift ever given. The birth of Jesus was unique - that is there has never been and never will be one like it. What makes it unique is not the actual birth which was the same as women have experienced since Eve. It was the conception when the Holy Spirit came upon Mary and the power of the Most High overshadowed her that was singular (Luke 1:35). Also, of course, the uniqueness was with He who was conceived in her womb - the God/man Jesus, the one who would be the savior of mankind. In heaven we will see the nail prints in His hands and will more fully comprehend what Jesus did for us. Let us worship Jesus this Christmas, let us rejoice in His coming and look to serve Him faithfully in the New Year.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT FSBC

- 5 Bible Recap Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
 9 Ladies' Christmas Tea (6:30 p.m.)
 13 Deacon's Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
 18 Annual Church Business Meeting (5:30 p.m.)
 20 MDO Christmas Program (6:00 p.m.)
 21-1/4 Christmas Break - No Awana No MDO
 Limited Office Hours
 25 Christmas Day
 25 Worship Service 10:00 - 11:00a.m. No Sunday School
 1/1/23 Worship Service 10:00 - 11:00a.m. No Sunday School

Worship Order

Most of us have attended multiple churches in our lifetime. And you have no doubt observed differences in the services from one church to another. But you also have found that virtually all churches have one thing in common. And that is the main body of the music precedes the sermon. There is an analogy that can help us understand the reason for this. When the servant comes in from the field at the end of the day he first feeds the master and then he in turn is fed. So, when we come to worship at the end of our week we first feed our Lord with our praises and then we in turn are fed from His word.

Ushers Report

There is a need for men from our church members to volunteer to serve as Ushers. We require a total of sixteen men to cover on a once a month basis. (On the month's with five Sundays we solicit volunteers). But we currently are short three men. Please contact Dave Ellis for assistance in volunteering – in person or by phone 590-3577, or by email dellis875@gmail.com.

Dave Ellis
 Head Usher



Nominating Committee

The members of the Nominating Committee are very grateful to the many people who are serving in our church and also for those who have volunteered to serve in 2023. The Ministry Opportunity Sign Up form was very helpful in filling the many committees and ministries of the church. The Nominating Committee presented the 2023 church volunteers report at the October business meeting. We are very pleased this year to have several new people on the committees and ministries. It's such a blessing to see people serve so faithfully in our church. God has truly blessed us with people who are willing to use their God given talents and skills to serve. The Nominating Committee stands ready to help the ministry and committee leaders throughout the coming year in their efforts to identify people who might want to serve. The Nominating Committee is selected by the Pastor during the month of April each year.

The Nominating Committee members are:

Patrick Holt – Chairman

Shannon Crowe – Secretary

Eric Nagel

Chip Brigham

Sharon Siebenberg

Sarah Gregory



If you are interested in serving on the committee please contact Pastor Jim or Patrick Holt.

Patrick Holt - Chairman

(continued from page 2) to develop a real and lasting relationship with God. It is in Sunday school where you learn how to interact with your fellow brothers and sisters. Real friendships and relationships are forged in Sunday school because this is where you find like-minded people who really want to know the will and ways of God. Never be intimidated facing an obstacle. People who go further are usually those who are willing to dare.

Our Sunday School has a tremendous potential of growth, both numerically and spiritually. Our Sunday School is staffed and taught by Christian men and women who are freely giving their time and talents to the end that the lost may be saved and the saved may be strengthened. Please join with us in praying for our Sunday School and for more dedicated and faithful teachers to join our team.



Patrick Holt

Joke of the Month (Comedy) Corner



1. Why is it that a twenty dollar bill looks so small at the grocery store but so big in the offering plate at church?
2. A church had a picnic and invited the entire community to come. The pastor placed a basket full of apples on one end of the table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please—remember God is watching." On the other end of the table was a plate full of cookies where one of the children had placed a sign reading, "Take all the cookies you want, God is watching the apples."
3. A businessman needed a million dollars to close an important transaction and went to church to pray for the money. Next to him was a man praying for \$100.00 to pay a debt. The businessman gave him the \$100.00 and then prayed saying, "Now that I have your undivided attention..."

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

7 Elijah Grohs
7 Samantha Simler
10 Kathleen Payton
13 Roman Grohs
16 Jon Thompson
20 Omayya Simler



Happy Birthday

26 Sharon Goodnough
27 Patti Clark
27 Chris Pentico
29 Diane Noland
30 Le Roy Damke

7 Bill & Sue Groom
15 Vincent & Raedena Brooks



29 Eric & Mary Grohs

Early January Birthdays

1 Darlene Artz
2 Garry Harper
4 Lendell Simler

6 Dennisa Lancaster
8 Charlotte Grohs